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		30 JUL 1987	
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Central Intelligence Agency



Washington, D. C. 20505

DIRECTOR OF CONGRESSIONAL AFFAIRS

OCA 87-3209
30 July 1987

NOTE FOR: The Director
The Deputy Director
Executive Director
Deputy Director for Administration
Deputy Director for Operations
Deputy Director for Intelligence
Deputy Director for Science and Technology
Comptroller
Inspector General
General Counsel
Director of Public Affairs
Counselor to the DCI
Chief, Central American Task Force,
Directorate of Operations
Chief, Near East/South Asia,
Directorate of Operations

FROM: David D. Gries

SUBJECT: References to CIA in 29 July Iran/Contra Hearing

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Attachment

Subject: Major References to CIA in Testimony of Edwin Meese on 29 July 1987

Rudman states that he wants to clarify the record on Casey, noting that the only evidence that Casey had knowledge of the diversion is North's recent testimony to the Committees. Rudman notes that it is "curious" that North has only raised this since Casey's death. Meese expresses appreciation that Rudman has made this point and says that people shouldn't make "assumptions" about Casey's role when he is not here to defend himself (1305 hrs).

Mitchell asks Meese who he believes has told the truth about Casey's knowledge of the diversion—North or Casey. Meese responds that he believes Casey's statements to him about having no knowledge of the diversion. He bases this conclusion on North's statement to Meese last November that only North, Poindexter and McFarlane were aware of the diversion; in this regard, Meese notes this statement was made at a time when Casey was alive and no criminal inquiry was ongoing, so Meese places probative value on that statement (1405 hrs).

Tribble claims that initially in the Administration the Attorney General was involved in the Finding review but that he was ejected at the request of the NSC and the CIA. Meese responds by saying that negotiations are underway with Congress to improve the covert action review and approval procedures.

In framing a question for Meese, Tribble states that there were thirty-three (33) Findings in the Reagan Administration and that the Attorney General did not participate in sixteen(16). (1620 hrs).

In response to questions from Stokes, Meese repeats his view that he does not think Casey would have lied to him about his knowledge of the diversion. He also says that if Casey had known about it, he finds it hard to believe that he would not have sought Presidential approval. Finally, he says it would have been "uncharacteristic" for Casey to have suggested, as North claimed, that Poindexter should "take the fall." (1750 hrs)

Late in the proceedings, Rodino raised once again the issue of the conversation between Meese and Judge Webster about whether the Criminal Division should have been involved in the initial fact-finding inquiry. Rodino read from portions of Judge Webster's DCI confirmation hearing transcript to support his contention that the conversation was "casual." This prompted Representative McCollum a few minutes later to read into the record a longer excerpt from the transcript in order to show that Judge Webster has maintained his position that it would have been inappropriate to have involved the Criminal Division. (1910-1920 hrs)

Analysis

This was a long, tedious day of testimony that did not end until 7:30 p.m. Nothing new or startling was raised as Meese remained largely placid and dogged in defending his actions. The only noteworthy aspect of the testimony was his strong defense of Casey's integrity and reputation. Meese has been the first witness to flatly reject North's testimony that Casey knew of and approved the diversion scheme.